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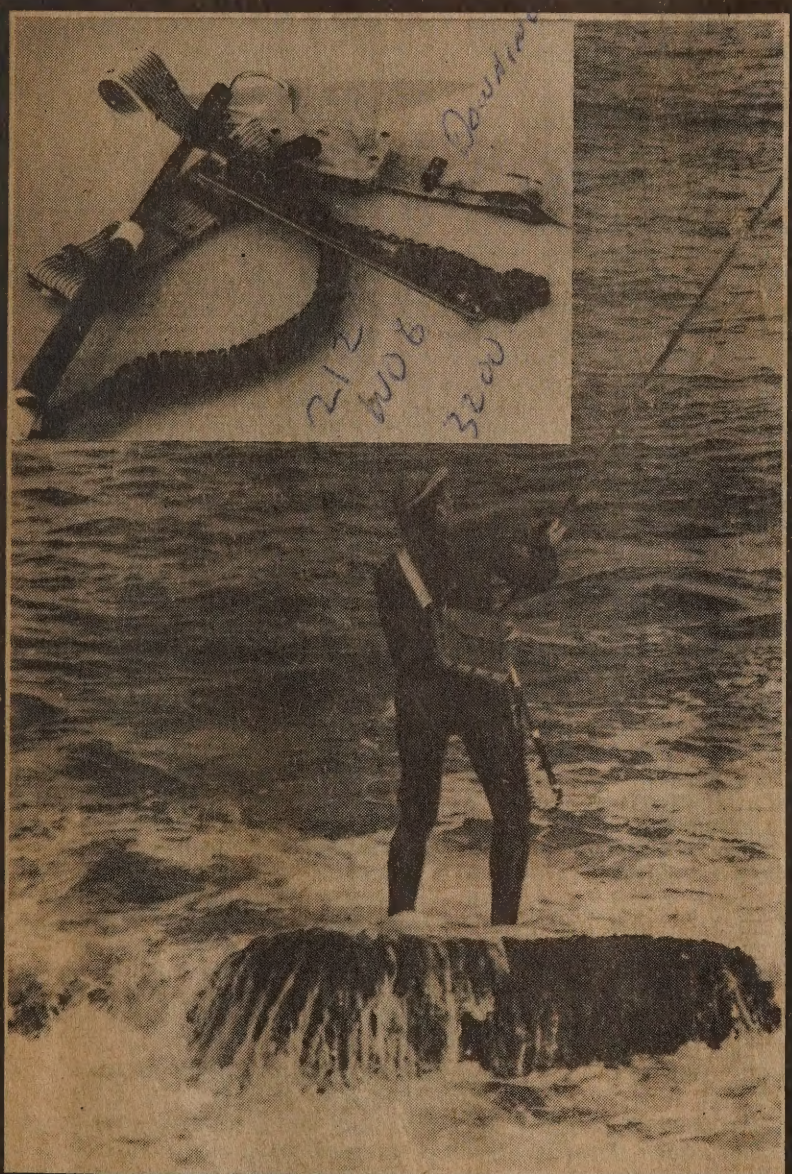
The Long Island FISHERMAN

FEBRUARY 6th, 1975, ISSUE No. 4



Home-Made Plugs

February Striper Nut

How To Keep A Fishing Diary

How To Ruin A Season

Light Tackle Surf Fishing

See page 16.

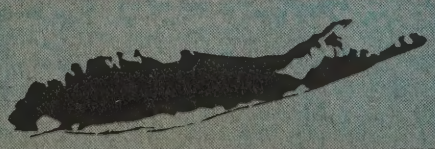
garcia

200 yds. FREE

GARCIA ROYAL BONNYL MONO

The Other End of Long Island

Part One: New York Harbor



Chum Lines

HELP IS HERE FOR READER

I'm probably going to kill fishing in my attempt to seek help for my son and myself, from you fellow fishermen and women.

No matter where I've gone fishing, I've found pretty decent people. Everyone last season helped us start a great way to relax, have fun, understand, and respect others.

The boy (19), and myself started this venture around July of '74. We fish off bridges: Canarsie, Crossbay, Rockaway. We don't know very much. People taught us how to use a hanger as a sort of rig to catch flounder.

The poor guys who got caught on our lines. The fish they must have lost. What patience. Always ready to show how to hook, take out a hook, ideas, pointers, and sometimes they gave us bloodworms.

I'm hoping that the L.I.F. prints articles about joining clubs, going fishing for the first time aboard a fishing boat, and recommendations for same.

Were not rich. But we enjoy the sport and help where we can. Anything's a good catch right now, from a fierce looking sea robin to a whale.

We do not want to lose fingers or cause loss of eyesight because of our eagerness to learn. Books would be of some help. Location sights close to home. Recommended boats, equipment, clubs, and fishing parties are of interest.

So; go to it L.I.F. and write away. I will enjoy Chum Line (chum being a fishing term of sorts), your ads, and overall contents. I've no car. So, always recommend a traveling method in your stories. Terrific. **John J. Hammersley, So. Richmond Hill.**

Thanks for the plaudits; we certainly appreciate them. It's letters like yours that tell us what the fishermen in this area want to know, so keep them coming. We even acknowledge complaints; sometimes we deserve them. This issue brings us part two of Ed Haring's series on fishing the southwestern end of Long Island, and there are two more coming. I hope this fits the bill. G.V.

WHITING FROM SHORE

Re: Richard Guarnieri's letter on where to fish for whiting from shore.

If he wants to try around Hampton Bays, he can fish from the west jetty at Shinnecock Inlet. Whiting are often caught here at night on an incoming tide. Sand eels are the bait that works best here.

As with all whiting fishing from shore, this is a hit-or-miss proposition; it all depends upon the availability of live bait in the water. Some nights can be terrific and the next night produce nary a bite. The wind should be offshore. Strong south winds should be avoided in this place.

Hope this will help Mr. Guarnieri, but as I say, there's no guarantee. **Matt Ahern, Hampton Bays.**

MORE ON TAKING RANGES

I read Scott Simons' article on range-finding with a great deal of interest (January 9, Issue # 2). However, I would like to take issue with his statement that is is important to select objects fo ranges at varied depths from the viewer's eye and that objects that are equidistant from the viewer are almost worthless. Frequently, that is all one has to focus on given the fact that a good many houses, etc., are situated parallel to one another and at about the same distance from the water. It all depends on what you choose to focus upon. Even a single building has a wealth of information that can be used for range finding.

An important aspect of buildings is missing in Mr. Simons' drawings (the elevations) but can be seen quite readily in the photos. One can determine a position by seeing how much of the facing side of a building is revealed in relation to the perspective side. For example, in the two photos, the facing side of the building with the radar screen is in the sunlight and the right (perspective) side is in shadow. In the top photo, the light side is about twice as great as the dark side. while in the lower photo, the viewer has moved to the right to the extent that the light and dark sides of the building are about equal. Furthermore, any noticeable detail on the building, e.g., a chimney, a T.V. antenna, or in this case, the radar screen, will also appear to be in a new position in relation to the building and the viewer once he moves. The base of the radar screen in the top photo is almost in the middle of the light side while in the bottom photo it appears to be aligned with the corner of the building.

If two buildings are equidistant from the viewer, the space between them will also change (become smaller) as the viewer moves to the left or right. This combination of front vs. side of building and/or the space between two equidistant buildings are valid reference points. Mr. Simons does show the change of space in his drawings but does not explain this phenomenon, perhaps due to limited space for his article.

Looking just a little harder can reveal quite a bit for pinning down a hot spot. Also, getting into the habit of focusing with one eye open is more accurate since this eliminates the distortion of binocular vision. Just make sure you remember which eye you kept open. And with the closed eye, try to visualize that fish you're going to catch at any moment. **Gerald Hahn, Assistant Chairman, Art Department, School of General Studies.**

We bow to Mr. Hahn's obvious expertise on the matter, and agree with most of the points he made. However, we do not recommend the use of such variables as "light" and "shade" for ranges, since time of day and weather conditions would destroy their value. Scott Simon's article was not meant to be the definitive tome on the subject, only an introducion for fishermen to the basics involved. Before he is flogged by the readers, your editor must humbly admit he placed a severe restriction on Scott by allowing him only so much space in which to present his topic, which I believe he did well. G.V.

SCUBA DIVER REQUESTS INFORMATION

I have been very happy reading the articles in L.I.F. and it has helped my fishing. Continue the good work! Besides being a rod-and-reel fisherman, I am also a scuba diver and have become interested in shellfish (crabs, lobsters, etc.). Maybe your publication can help me in regards to habits, areas and seasons on these creatures, or tell me where I might get further information on the subject. **John McGeever, New York.**

Many good texts and reference books can be found at your local library; depending upon how detailed you want your information, you could refer to any source from one of the inexpensive pocket guides to the Encyclopedia Brittannica.

None of them, however, will give you what I believe you want to know: specifically where on Long Island can one find these animals. None of us at The Fisherman *are scuba divers, so I'm throwing your request for help out to the diving audience. Any takers? G.V.*

FINANCIAL HELP FOR KIDS?

Thanks for your kind comments following the short excerpt from my letter recounting the details of our Dec. 6th Cod Tournament (Vol. 10, No. 2, Jan. 9, 1975). I'll try to keep you posted about how the program is developing. Our only problem is money...so what else is new?

Do you know of any sources who might be willing to make a tax

The Long Island FISHERMAN

THE ONLY WEEKLY GUIDE FOR FISHERMEN IN THE N.Y. AREA

Volume 10, Number 4 February 6th, 1975

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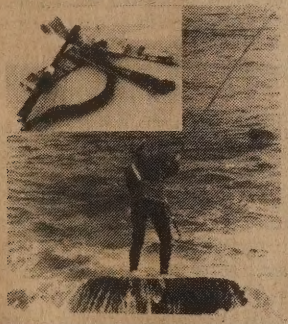

ABOUT THE COVER: Rather than attempt to explain this week's cover photo, turn to the Editorial on p. 5 for a discussion of the apparition.

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deductable contribution of $1,285.00 to sponsor the programs I've planned for the kids, which covers the next three or four years? If so I could supply a proposed budget breakdown for consideration.

Keep up the excellent work in your fine publication. **Will Daskal, Sheeps-Head Bay High School, Fishing Club, 3000 Avenue X, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11235, (516) SH-3-4061.**

BOAT SAFETY

1. Sears, 195 North Broadway, Hicksville, begiinning Tuesday, February 11, at 7 pm. Registration is limited to 30 people. For further information call the Sporting Goods Department.

2. J.F. Kennedy H.S., Washington Ave., Plainview, at 8 pm. February 20, in the cafeteria.

3. Lindenhurst Jr. H.S., 350 South Wellwood Avenue, Lindenhurst, at 7 pm, February 26, in the cafeteris.

4. Starting February 26, 8-10 pm Broadway School-Greenlawn. There will also be a New York State Young Boatman's Course. Ages 10-15. For further information call 427-0244 or 271-1930.

YOUNG BOATMAN'S SAFETY COURSE

New York State Parks and Recreation's Young Boatman's Safety Course will be taught in Bay Shore Masonic Temple beginning Saturday, February 8th.

New York State's revised Navigation Law now requires youngsters between the ages of 10 and 16 to acquire a safety certificate before they may lawfully operate a mechanically-propelled boat alone on State waters.

Yongsters may qualify for their safety certificate by taking the Young Boatman's Safety Course and passing the examination given at the end of the course.

Youngsters wishing to take the course may enroll at Bay Shore Masonic Temple, Union Boulevard and Lanier Lane, Bay Shore, N.Y. on Sat. February 8th, at 2 p.m. For further information call: JU-1-3172.

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CLUB NEWS

NORTH BROOKHAVEN SPORT FISHERMAN'S CLUB INC.

The February meeting of the North Brookhaven Sport Fishermen's Club, Inc. will be held on the 10th, a Monday night, in the Mt. Sinai Community House located on North Country Road in Mt. Sinai; (¼ mile east of the Mt. Sinai fire house) at 8:30 pm.

The guest speaker this month will be Chet Zawacki, Aquatic Biology Division of the New York State DEC in Stony Brook. Mr. Zawacki will speak on fishing wrecks and reefs, show a slide program, and then answer questions from members and guests.

At the January meeting, the N.B.S.F.C. hosted the Long Island Fisherman staff with Dr. Muller of the staff answering questions put to him by club members. The largest turnout in two years enjoyed a fine film shown by the L.I.F. staff even though the forcast called for 3 to 5" of snow.

New members joining the N.B.S.F.C. for the first time at its January meeting include: John Grega of Lake Ronkonkoma, George Vasko of Port Jefferson Station, and Bill Nass of Rocky Point. The club invites all Island Fishermen to attend its next meeting on the 10th of February. More information of the North Brookhaven Sport Fishermens Club Inc. (Chartered by the State of New York as a non profit organization) call in Rocky Point: 744-6260, and in Lake Ronkonkoma ares call: 588-6080.

Club Extras: Members are all set for the Fourth Annual Dinner Dance & awards Night which will be held in the Wagon Wheel, Rt. 112, Port Jefferson Station, on March 1st. A buffet dinner, all you can eat, plus all you can drink, and live music are featured. All this for $37.00 per couple. Tickets can be purchased by calling Don Avrick at (516) 928-4280. All Island Fisherman are invited to join with the N.B.S.F.C. for a night of fun and good times.

BABYLON TUNA CLUB OFFICES FOR 1975 FISHING SEASON

President, Mr. George McCord; Vice President, Dr. Einar F. Grell; Corresponding Secretary, Mr. Frederick Guardineer; Recording Secretary, Mr. Frank Epervary; Membership Secretary, Mr. Charles Bezold; Treasurer, Mr. Raymond Wittman; Sargent At Arms, Mr. John Hazelton.

FREEPORT TUNA CLUB

A special Director's meeting was held on December 18, 1974 and the following new Officers were elected to serve for the following year: President, George Ehlers; First Vice President, Robert Rae; Second Vice President, Everett Bassett; Treasurer, Herbert Botwin; Secretary, John (Doc) Creamer.

EAST ROCKAWAY ANGLERS

A new fishing club formed in East Rockaway. Called the East Rockaway Anglers, the club was formed mainly for the average anglers with boats under 27'.

They have fishing pools every month, tournaments throughout the year, and wind it all up with a dinner-dance with many awards.

Club membership is now open and limited to 25 new anglers.

If you or your friend is interested, please drop a line to : East Rockaway Anglers, P.O. Box 251, East Rockaway, New York 11518.

NEW ANGLERS FISHING CLUB

The membership of the New Anglers Fishing Club of Long Beach, N.Y. closed the 1974 season with their first annual dinner and awards dance held at Joe Terzo's in Oceanside.

First prize went to Walter Chmurzynski, second prize to Dick Crittenden, and third prize to Lew Stein.

Officers for 1975 are Ed Calabritto, Pres; Jim Cozier, Vice Pres.; Dick Carroll, Treas.; Lew Stein, Secy. All were re-elected unanimously.

Any Long Island readers wanting further information concerning the NAFC are asked to contact Ed Calabritto at (516) 731-8835.

LONG ISLAND SURF FISHING CLUB SEEKS NEW MEMBERS

The L.I.S.F.C. of Astoria N.Y. is seeking new members. Please contact Roy Harlick: Telephone (212) 457-8682 after 6 p.m.

RAM'S ROD AND REEL CLUB

The Ram's Rod & Reel Club of the Bronx, N.Y. recently held their annual elections for 1975. New officers are: President, Fred (Pop) Ramsauer, Vice President, Fred (Ramy) Ramsauer; Treasurer, Tom (High Hook) Vassallo; Charter Members: Joe (Rookie) Gallo; Richard (Gitch) Gallo, John (Patients) Gallo, Tom (Buddah) Vassallo, Richard (Legs) Ramsauer, Cosmo (Good Guy) Pagno, George (Heavy) Coffey, Steve (Homer) Tullino.

News Releases

SEAL CENSUS

A census of seals in New York (Long Island) area in the month of February, is being taken by The University of Rhode Island. The public is invited to take part in this undertaking. Information and necessary forms may be obtained from the Marine Environmental Council of Long Island, P.O. Box 55, Seaford, N.Y. 11783.

INTERIOR FOLDS ON HATTERAS REGULATIONS

On November 30th, the Department of Interior notified Congressman Edwin B. Forsythe that a four and a half mile stretch of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore would be reserved for sportsfishermen, seven days a week, starting December 14, 1974 through April 30, 1975.

Under pressure from Congressman Walter B. Jones (North Carolina), and no doubt his North Carolina coliegues, this protection has now been reduced to weekends only, from February 1, 1975. This, of course, makes sportsfishermen vulnerable to the haul seiners who have long considered Hatteras their fishing preserve, and not a recreation resource for the Nation.

From the viewpoint of the surf casters, whose money as taxpayers supports the National Seashore, and whose money as sportsfishing tourists does no great harm to the business economy of Congressman Jones' district, it is, at least, a failure on the part of the Department of Interior.

Somehow, it seems illogical that an

(Continued on page 19.)

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EDITORIAL

Heaped on my desk (it's a small desk) are letters from fishermen who have something to say about a 200-mile fisheries limit. Support of the concept is there and the writers make no bones about it; in fact, they are downright vehement. None, so far, have been against it.

Quite a few, though, take a slightly different tack: in favor of eliminating the foreign fleets from our coastal fisheries areas, they demand to know what *The Fisherman* is going to do about it! All kinds of action—petitions, lobbying, policing, threatening—are suggested. Yet the writers in this category are unanimous in that they pointedly ignore carrying any part of the responsibility for action on their own numerous shoulders; they have, by omission, placed themselves outside the battle arena, but near enough to cast barbs at others they feel should be doing their work.

To digress a moment. Some weeks ago some nutty crank called me up to ask if *The Fisherman* had been represented at a particularly important meeting. I was out of town at the time, so I answered that I personally did not know—which was true. (Fact of the matter was, we had two people there.) Without waiting for any further explanation, the anonymous caller went into a tirade of cursing us for not being interested in what was going on, then quickly hung up. He obviously had attended, but did not offer to give us the information he believed we did not have; that ass was too busy lightening his own load.

Which brings me, rather circuitously, to my point: the efforts to make the 200-mile fisheries proposals accepted by our government must in part be executed by individual fishermen. You men and ladies must write to your senators and congressmen, and other elected and appointed officials in high state and federal government positions, to tell them briefly and accurately—without being abusive—exactly how you feel and what you expect of them on your behalf. A single letter has little weight when a politician represents many thousands or millions of people. But what weight would be assigned to millions of those single letters? You be the judge, then act accordingly. We can't help you if you are unwilling to help yourselves.

In a much lighter vein, I guess I'd better explain the cover photo. A while back Doc Muller came into the office and introduced an accompanying friend, who happens to belong to the High Hill Striper Club. Said friend won the club's high award for Schaefer points (surf-caught fish) in eleven of the twelve years he was entered, and all fish were caught on plugs in the surf. Total points for the twelve years were 8750, for an astounding average of 729 points a year. Remember, this for bass over 15 pounds and blues over 5!

The stranger coyly said he had run a string of eleven years fishing the Montauk surf—with plugs only—two days a week from mid-June through the end of October, without once getting skunked. He further admitted, rather sheepishly, I thought, that on some trips only one small fish was taken, but quickly added "even a small fish is a fish!"

The man is a "whiz-bang, golly-gee" with plugs—both making and fishing them—and told us he would be willing to share this wealth with his beloved fellow fishermen for one, among other things, small boon: all he wanted was for me to set the record straight by introducing him as he was, and not, perhaps, as others saw him. So...

Yes, he does wear a wet suit, and he clings to rocks like a barnacle. (is that too abrasive?) He has, in the past, dug an anchor into the sand, tied himself to it, and pushed out into some very treacherous waters until, that one time...He genuinely is a shy, withdrawn, person who loves the whole world, especially those wonderful people he meets on the beach during the night, and to whom he rushes, with all good will and affection, to spread the news of his latest discoveries and successes. Oh, gosh. He thinks people are "just swell"—as I once heard in a '30's flick on the evil-eye.

If you haven't guessed the identity of our mysterios author yet, let me add that he's a grammar school principal with a Ph. D, who makes a thinly-veiled attempt at presenting the image of a country bumpkin. Oh, that he were! I've spoken to him only a couple of times, and I always walked away checking myself to see if something was missing. Wow!

Without further ado, as they say in Shakespearian, let me introduce you to John A. "The Professor" Frech, scurge of dark nights and heaving seas; neither man nor beast is forevermore safe! And I'm not kidding now!

If you've got any questions after reading his articles, address them to Jack Frech, care of *The Fisherman*. They'll all be answered if you include a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

Glenn Voparil

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Surf Side with Doc Muller

LIGHT TACKLE SURF FISHING

Many of you have received the where-with-all via Christmas gifts to make a few additions to your tackle arsenal. Perhaps up until now you have devoted your attentions almost exclusively to the high surf and to long distance casting.

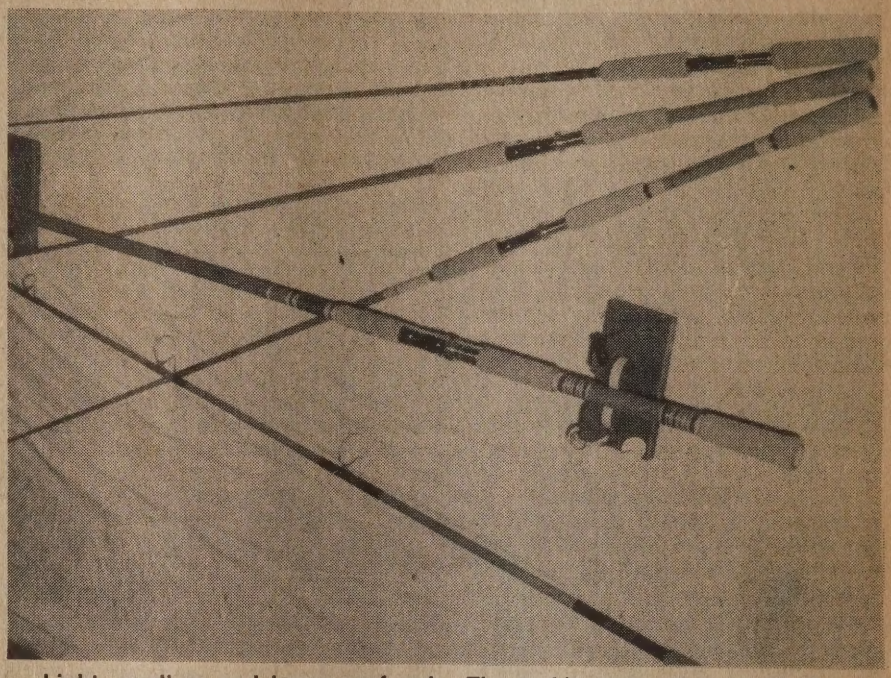
But the return of the weakfish and the heavy showing of small bass last fall may have put a notion or two in your head about rigging up light for the spring. If so, there are a few things to keep in mind.

Light tackle fishing is perhaps the most misunderstood facet of surf fishing. Going light seems to be a big fad and its popularity brings many absurd excesses. Contrary to what some "experts" might say, it is possible to go too light. An angler definitely needs medium-to heavy-weight equipment when he fishes the rips, rock piles, high surf, and in crowds. There is nothing more annoying to experienced fishermen than to have the rhythm of a picket line disturbed by a guy who can't control either the lure or the fish.

The idea to use light and ultralight gear should have something to do with increasing the sport, but sometimes it just isn't practical. It is possible to whip very large fish with this kind of tackle, but I've only seen a few experts that can do it comfortably. The successful use of the light wands and tender reels requires that the fishermen push the capabilities of his equipment to its limitations—with a prayer to heaven filtering out of his clenched teeth.

The pros with light tackle have learned the ins and outs the hard way, through many lost fish and many anxious moments. But in the end he has learned to marry himself to the gear so that his movements and those of the fishing rod and reel become one. He learns when to apply pressure and when to give line.

Probably one of the crucial qualities of a successful light tackle fishermen is his insistance on top quality, from the stick to the line. He's more than likely a guy who ties a great knot—and checks it often. He will not tolerate a fray or a kink, and he is fastidious about every detail imaginable. The spacing of the guides, the size of those guides—as well as their metallic composition—are taken care of well in advance. But on the beach



Light, medium and heavy surf rods. The tackle you use must fit the species you seek and the conditions you expect.

there are many other items that need continuous attention. If he is to fool a big fish with those tiny lures, he must be on guard for every environmental factor that might affect the action of the lure and the lay of the line from wave crest to wave crest.

In short, he is capable of enormous concentration, not only once the fish is hooked, but also as he gives his mind completely to the events of each cast. His brain becomes a mini-computer as it analyzes, compares, and calculates.

Many fishermen become involved in light tackle fishing without being fully aware of its many component and related parts. It's a totally different ball game: the fish cannot be muscled, yet the limber wand will beat a fish quickly. With this gear the fishermen begins to learn what fighting a fish is all about! He may also learn a little about himself as well, and may not like everything that he learns!

What is light and what is heavy? These are really subjective terms. A trout rod and 4-pound test line might be considered light at the mouth of a tidal creek, but would be ridiculous off a jetty or from a rocky shore on Long Island Sound. Likewise, a seven-foot spinning rod with a medium or fast-taper, with 8- to 10-pound test line, might be just the light ticket for Long Island Sound, but would overpower the fish in the tidal creek and would be almost useless off the Montauk beaches.

The tackle that a fisherman uses should always be as well thought-out, complementing set of balanced, quality materials. I say "well thought out" because many things must be considered before making a choice. These include not only the size of the fish that the angler expects to catch, but also the species, since each species has its own unique fighting qualities, the bottom structure that might be expected, the length of the cast that is required, the weather conditions such as wind and precipitation that will be faced, the strength of the current to be contended with, and the experience of the fisherman who will use the tackle.

Nonetheless, it is invigorating to latch onto a good fish with light tackle. The angler gets a better sense of what's happening at the other end of the line. Each push of the powerful tail can be felt through the pulses of the rod and the stretching monofila-

(Continued on page 19.)

February Striper Nut

by Dick Mermon

Say what you about the crazy March flounder fisherman, the screwy October surfman and the April Fool's Day trout angler. I know of several striper nuts that fish for striped bass all through the winter months, and right here in our local waters. That's right! Striped bass, in February, snow, wind and cold.

The one that put me onto this winter-over striped bass was George Fox of Babylon Sports Center. I had stopped at his shop one February day when he was on his way out to fish for the bass. Not trying to act as though I thought him to be a little dippy, and that the winter blahs had gotten to him, I asked if he would mind if I tagged along. So now there were two nuts on the way out into the cold weather to find the cure-all for the winter blahs.

George took me to Crab Meadow Beach parking field, east of Northport, on Long Island Sound. About a mile to the west was the Northport LILCO power plant. This plant uses the water of an out-flowing stream for its cooling system and expells it into Long Island Sound. At the exact location where the salt and the fresh water meet is a dam, and the Sound water rises and falls with the tide to form the brackish water.

This out-flow of warm water is the secret of catching these winter bass. The warm water pours out into the Sound, where the stripers still think it is mild weather. The drop-offs in the Sound, just beyond the out-flow,are where the fish settle in. Any wind from the north will push the warm water into the beach and the bass follow.

When I say any north wind, I mean any, because as I opened the door of the car, a blast of cold, moist air hit me. The wind must have been blowing twenty five miles an hour. If it had not been for my insatiable curiosity and my desperate search for something to do, I would have turned around and gone home. Many times, with such a wind billowing my parka top, I have given up the beach for a warmer location.

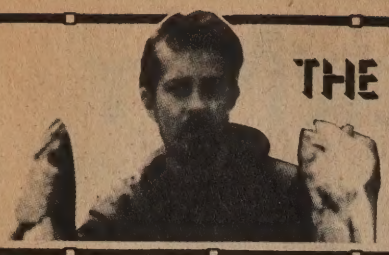
By the time I had enough courage to put on the waders, my fingers were numb with cold. I thought, what kind of a nut would be out in this kind of weather, fishing into this kind of wind? For sure, there were two kinds of nuts, George and myself. But you know, as we walked down to the water's edge, there were two other bass nuts. There, standing in the rock wall breakwater, casting very small bucktails and jointed Rebel's, and just about managing to hold their ground against the wind on their backs.

So we joined them and worked the small lures in the pocket behind the breakwater. Were it not for the fact that on my very first cast I had a hit, I would have said "to heck with it," and gone back to the car. Cold as my hands were, I unhooked the small fish and tossed him back before he froze stiff.

George, too, was into a fish. From then on it was a fish on every cast, or at least a hit. Hands cold as they were, I kept on fishing and so did George. Finally, it reached a point where my fingers just did not work any more. My brain electrified the words to the fingers, but the response was lacking.

This was it. I had had enough. George did also. When the hands do not respond to what they are supposed to do, it is time to quit. The ground hog saw his shadow and there were still six more weeks of cold weather to be expected.

But the winter blahs were over. The feeling was a relief of tension which has built up to a point where nothing could reduce it but fishing. Since I could not take off for a sunny climate, the next best thing was right here, where stripers winter-over in their false environment.



THE BOTTOM LINE

with Scott Simons

HOW TO KEEP A FISHING DIARY

As a fisherman, the most important source of valuable information is that which you collect yourself—providing that you compile it in a diary where it may be compared and analyzed. The importance of the fisherman's diary can be attested to by the fact that virtually every professional boat captain and commercial fisherman keeps a daily diary of his fishing results.

Each time you go fishing, many events of the day will often seem insignificant when looked upon as single bits of data. The value of keeping this information logged in a diary lies in the accumulation of data over a period of time; data that can be studied, searching for significant patterns to your fishing results. After analyzing several fishing trips, you may discover that an item that seemed unimportant at the time repeats itself several times, shedding new light on its value.

Here are a few of the many important discoveries my diary unfolded about fishing at Montauk: clam chumming for bass off Ditch Plains was only worthwhile during the first and last hours of incoming water; bass and blues caught under the light were usually taken around the change of the tides; fluke fishing at the Midway Rips was most productive during incoming water with a 10-15 mph southwest wind; doormat fluke were almost always taken just before the tide slackened; when the current was too strong at the point to hold bottom, Ditch Plains, with its slower currents, was the more productive area for porgies; fluke never started biting until the sun was fully over the horizon; etc.

Starting a diary is easy and much can be done now before the season starts and time is at a premium. Visit your local stationary or five & dime store and purchase a diary for 1975; they range in price from two to 15 dollars. Or just pick up a hard-cover notebook and fill in the dates yourself. Also pick up a couple of laundry pens or indelible pencils so that your notations won't become an illegible blur the first time they become damp.

Now enter into the diary any vital information you may need while fishing: high and low tides, times of ebb and flood, sunrise and sunset, moon phases, etc. If you are an L.I.F. subscriber, by March you will receive a 16-page booklet that contains this information in your L.I.F. Fisherman's Package. Others will be able to purchase the booklet for $1.50 at many of the local bait and tackle shops. If your fishing is limited to weekends, just enter the information for Saturday and Sundays. Keep your diary stored in a dry place on the boat, in a plastic bag or document pouch to protect it from spray.

As a day of fishing progresses make notations of fishing conditions and results in the diary. Keep a watch or clock nearby and note important facts such as what time the fish start and stop biting. These times are vital for future analysis when you compare the peaks and valleys of fishing action with the stages of the tide and currents during the same periods of time. Pay particular attention to any action that takes place around the change of the tide, when fish will often change feeding patterns. Also note the time whenever you leave or arrive at a specific location. Don't be afraid to enter negative fishing results—they may also yield vital information when analyzed.

Weather conditions are undoubtably an important factor in fishing success or failure and, therefore, should be logged in the diary. Cloudy or overcast skies, fog, rain, wind speed and direction can all be important factors. Don't be overly general in this area—conditions often change many times during the course of the day, and all should be rated. Wind direction and speed in particular should always be logged when a change occurs.

Unless you can go fishing seven days a week, your diary is going to have quite a few blank pages in it that can be put to use for other purposes; diagrams of shore ranges you make when a hot fishing spot is located, for one. (See the article "How to Make & Use Shore Ranges," L.I.F. Volume 10, Number 2, January 9th, 1975.) If you like to take pictures of your catch, paste in a few of these. Or use a page or two or three to record an amusing incident that took place on your trip. A page listing compass courses that you use often would also be a good idea. Keep track of your expenses. In the possible event that your wife may see this entry, also keep track of how many pounds of fish you caught and what the same amount of fish would cost in the market, so you can show her how much money you are saving for her by spending money fishing. If she comes up with some smart-alecky answer like "But Herby, we can't possibly eat 3,246 pounds of sea robins in a year," punt.

As you can see, the possibilities of keeping a fishing diary are almost endless. Not only will it improve your fishing results over the years, but it can be a lot of fun and enjoyment.

New Products

GUDEBROD'S 1975 COLOR FISHING TACKLE CATALOG

The Fishing Division of GUDEBROD BROS. SILK CO., INC., Phila. Pa. has a colorful 24 page catalog of fishing lines, lures and rod building accessories. Featured are the G-6 and G-T Dacron fishing lines plus an informative test report article on the advantages of fishing with dacron line.

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The Other End of Long Island
Part Two: Bays & Bridges
by Ed Haring

To most people Sheepshead Bay is synonymous with deep sea fishing, for it harbors one of the finest fishing fleets to be found along our coast. Yet within its confines many shore-bound anglers find countless hours of enjoyment in tempting its own scaled inhabitants to sample their baits. Some anglers are retirees, others are workers with a few hours to relax, and then there are the kids full of hope and excitement. I remember fondly the days when I was counted among them.

Most of the fishing is done from the Manhattan Beach side, anywhere from the Ocean Avenue footbridge to Kingsborough Community College, a distance of roughly three-quarters of a mile. Fishing is banned on the footbridge, although it is a rare day when knots of fishermen cannot be found hunched over its rails. The police are very tolerant as long as the fishermen exercise caution and do not endanger passers-by. The end of the docks on Emmons Avenue, at which the boats moor, are the chosen spots of some.

Snappers usually get the biggest play, and pailsfull of these tasty gamesters are in evidence all over during their season from August until October. Blacks up to four pounds are not uncommon, and some nice flounder are to be had in the spring and fall. Fluke, porgies and stripers also wander into its confines where at times the water is choked with baitfish. Only a few seasons ago everyone was pulling in a fish that defied my identification. One of the 'experts' told me that it was a school of baby amberjacks. In any event, the unexpected can happen.

The Bay can easily be reached via surface transportation, subway or auto. At times parking can be at a premium, but with a little patience you will find a spot. There are several fine tackle shops along Emmons Avenue, so suitable bait and rigs are no problem. You blue claw addicts can have a field day working the pilings and bulkhead with a long-handled net. Heading east along the Belt Parkway, we cross three bridges (which I consider of minor importance) before reaching Carnarsie Pier. Not all agree with me, for there are always small groups of anglers either on the spans or at their bases.

There is no place like Carnarsie Pier at the height of the season. Jets enroute to Kennedy roar overhead, radios blare out all kinds of music, all languages are shouted back and forth so that no one would expect any self-respecting fish to approach it. They do, though, and in addition to those I mentioned in Sheepshead Bay, weaks herring, sand porgies and an occasional blue are hauled in. Bait and tackle are available from a barge moored to the dock.

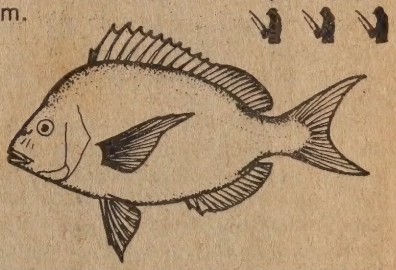
This is a well-constructed pier with parking space for several hundred cars on the structure. Additional parking can be found a few blocks away. Busses with subway connections provide frequent service. Whole families come here to picnic or sun themselves on the many benches. There are even shade trees for non-sunworshippers.

A few miles further east along the Belt we turn right (south) on Cross Bay Boulevard and approach the North and South Channel Bridges across Jamaica Bay and Broad Channel. These are popular spans. All previously-mentioned species are available—often in greater numbers, plus a few curiosities that only bridges can offer. Once I caught two croakers, another time I saw an 8-inch barracuda and heard of a couple of blue runners from a reliable source. I do not recomment fishing for these tropical oddities; they are taken strictly by chance. Most anglers fish bottom except for snappers, but you can be sure that the sharpies walking off in the morning or late at night with stripers or weaks employed other methods.

The successful bridge fisherman is an artist in his own right. He has his favorite spots and scouts around carefully, particularly where the shadow of the bridge falls on the water. Here is where his game is apt to lurk. His lure hits the water without a splash and is slowly worked through this zone. At times it may be with the tide; at others, against it. He earns his fish through long experience. Another method is too drift a whole, juicy worm with the tide, either alone or behind a June Bug spinner. Try it sometime; you may become an expert overnight!

The bridges may be reached by car or bus. Parking is seldom a problem as parking fields are to be found at the North Channel Bridge and on the streets in Broad Channel. Three tackle shops are nearby—one north of both bridges on Cross Bay Boulevard, the second on the Rockaway Bridge side just off the bridge, and the third is located just south of the North Channel Bridge.

Riis Park offers some very good bay fishing along the bulkheads and off the Marine Parkway bridge itself. You will find 'No Fishing' signs on the bridge but here again the police are tolerant unless you cause problems. They had a banner year from the span last year with blacks, stripers and big porgies. Buses serve this area from many points, and the huge parking lot at the park can easily accomodate the motorist. Bring your bait and tackle, since there are no shops in this area. The valid questions of tackle, bait, seasons and rigs often comes up, and in a future issue I will attempt to cover them.



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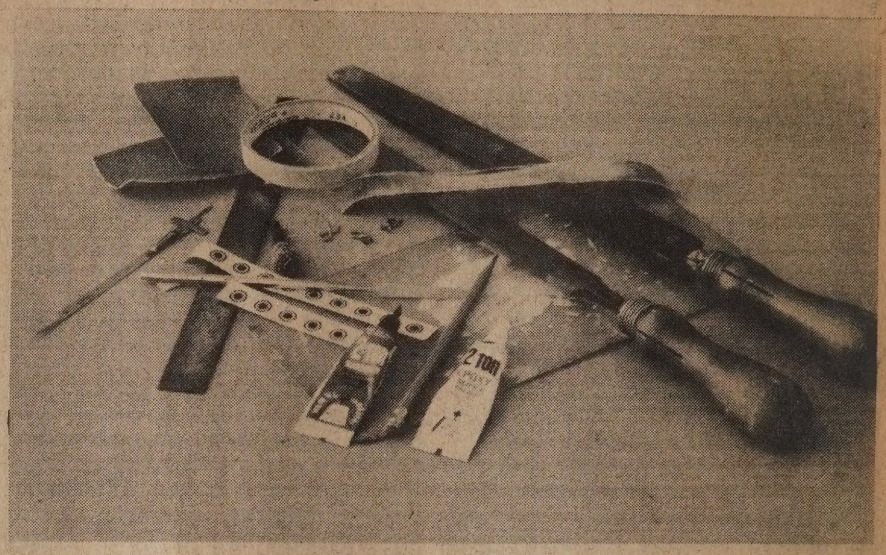
ADDICTIVE DRUGS— Home-Made Plugs

by Jack Frech

Part One



Take a piece of dowel rod, give it a little shape, paint it, wrap on a hook and use it exclusive of all other lures. Eventually, if the fisherman has a vast store of patience and a willing to spend hours upon hours tossing it into the ocean and jerking it back and, if he is lucky, a fish will be caught.

Pygmalion created his own beauty and was captivated by it—so too, the plug maker! He is challenged to take a chunk of wood or plastic—handle it!—feel it!—recognize it has within it all the possibilities for life and action! Thinking confidently he believes he and he alone can release the life within it, and in so doing create a dream: the one plug that will out-perform all others.

Dream of the one plug that will out-cast, out-fish and out-catch—let the dream build and challenge. At the same time, take the first steps to learn the basic skills necessary for plugmaking. Find the short cuts, study them and put aside the pursuit of the ultimate lure until the fundamentals become as simple as breathing.

The problem faced by each "would-be" plugmaker is how to reduce the time necessary to reach early proficiency.

The purpose of this series is to introduce the art of fashioning reliable plugs which can be made with a minimum amount of skill. Each of the plugs to be described has been proven in our Long Island waters. Included with the construction details will be sources of materials, basic tools and techniques.

First in this series will be five plugs which are built to make a ruckus on the surface of the water. They do, however, have alternative actions which make them very versatile. Most of them are heavily-weighted and ready to go the distance in the surf. One carries minimum weight, permitting use in the calmer waters of shallow bays and inshore reefs where floating, slow-moving plugs are often necessary. Each of these can be made by a person with limited technical skills and with the tools available to the home craftsman.

"W-Y" POPPER

This plug, in the hands of a very few surf fisherman, has taken countless bluefish and striped bass from Montauk to Hatteras and back to Nantucket. The original from which this plug was copied was made by William Young of the High Hill Striper Club on Long Island. Bill had a piece of 1-1/8-inch diameter birch dowel which was a bit short for a darter. Rather than waste the wood, he fashioned it into a popper. The distance it cast and the fish he caught were enough to make me want one, too. After a summer of trial and error an adaption was made; slightly shorter, with a decidedly different balance and some hair fastened to its tail. Named the "W-Y" for Bill, it has become the one plug that is in my bag day and night except in April and May when I haunt Little Neck Bay and Hempstead Harbor.

It casts like a bullet in any wind, can be made to streak madly; on top, to chug along rhythmically, to wallow from side to side and to travel with a swimming motion just under the surface or in the intermediate level, if there is a current or a rip. Each of these actions are readily within the range of an average surf fisherman's skill. All that is needed is practice, confidence, an educated left hand and a few copies of Bill's plug.

The body of this plug is fashioned of birch dowel, 1-1/8-inch in diameter. Purchase four of these in three-foot lenghts, sufficient to make twenty-four plus. This will allow for some discards due to construction errors. Also, it will provide a few to be "thrown away" while the fisherman becomes accommodated to the weight of the completed plug.

The dowels can be purchased at most local lumber yards. Mine come when available from Latham's Lumber in Mineola and cost about one dollar each. When selecting dowels, pick straight pieces with long parallel grain markings and remember all dowels are not birch. Make sure the diameter is 1-1/8 of an inch. Lumber yards always apear to have 3/4-inch and 1-inch diameters. Don't purchase these! For one reason or another, these diameters make lures with completely different actions.

The first construction step is to cut each dowel into six pieces, each 5-3/8 inches long. A simple step but important because the ends resulting from these cuts must be square. Future drilling operations and alignment of hangers are simpler if the end faces are at right angles to the length. If a mitre box is handy, use it.

Plugs can be rigged for hooks and terminal gear in a number of ways. The traditional ways are to run a wire through the length of the plug or to use non-rusting screw eyes at the appropriate locations. Years ago I recognized my skills were inadequate to permit drilling "true" holes completely through four to six inches of dowel or plastic. A bit later too many screw eyes were being broken as I rigged plastic plugs. By pure chance, one night while working with some of the two-tube epoxy, at the time a new product, it occured to me that this might be just the thing! A

dowel was rigged with a brass sinker eye epoxied at either end. Once dry, one end was fastened to a cellar beam, the other to a twenty-five pound weight. When the weight was dropped, the sinker eyes elongated a bit but held firm. Since that time all of my plugs have been rigged with sinker eyes epoxyed in place.

discount store, approximate cost about a dollar a card. The sinker eyes are not always readily available but can be located in tackle shops catering to "do it yourself" fishermen who make their own sinkers. If unavailable locally, they can be purchased from Art Wire and Stamping Co., 9 Wing Drive, Cedar Knolls, New Jersey 02927, or Reading Instrument Co., Box 78, Reading, Pa. 19603. Buy a half-pound, they won't go to waste. You will need seventy-two to complete twenty-four "W-Y's."

Finally, two lead slugs 3/8-inch in diameter and 1/2 of an inch long complete the materials needed for construction. Most occasional plug-makers pour molten lead directly into the weight holes. Some use lead balls. Others cast their weights in homemade molds. These are made by clamping two pieces of hardwood flooring together and drilling between them to the desired depth and diameter. If one uses this technique, drill six or eight holes. Heat the lead and pour into the holes. Separate the pieces of flooring when cool and knock out the slugs.

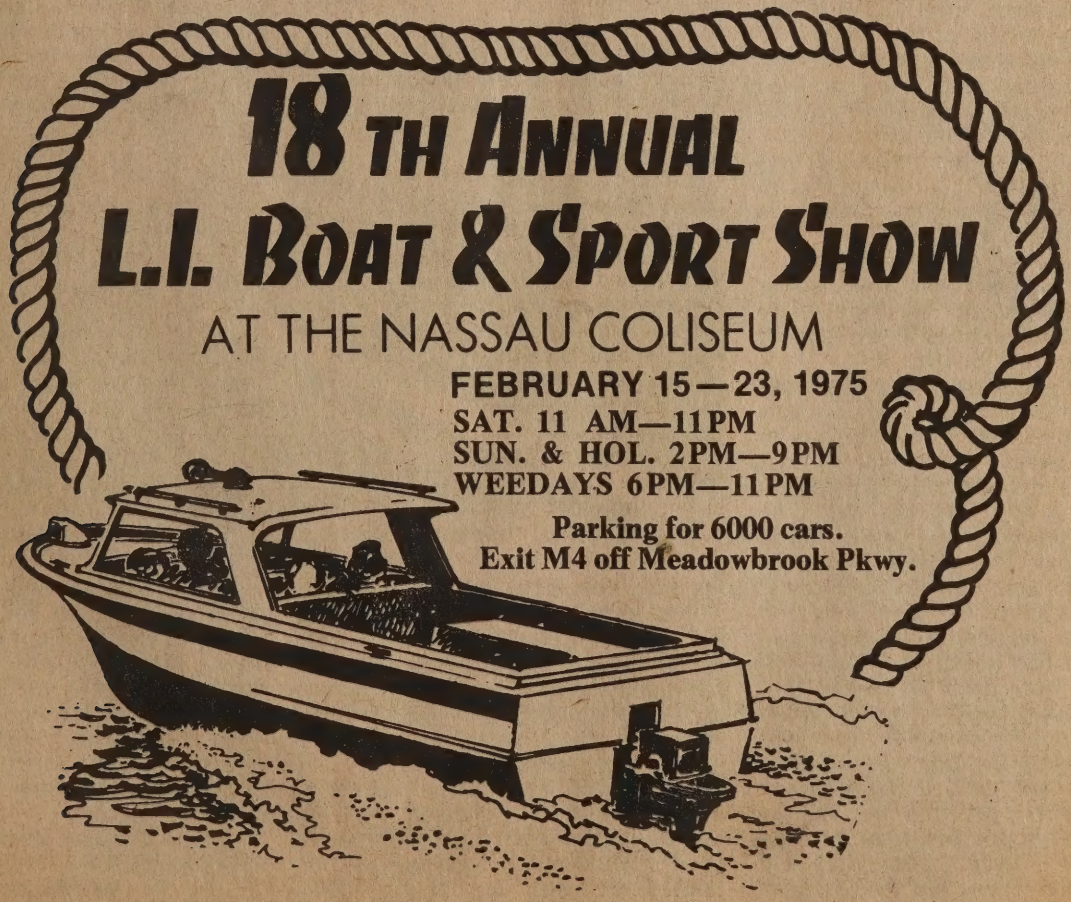
There is little that appears really critical when constructing surface-commotion plugs. However, it is my belief that, if each plug of a type is to work the same as its identical looking counterpart, each of its component parts and construction techniques must be as close to identical as is possible with the tools available. This strongly held belief encourages other fishermen and some good friends to look at me as if I were a bit out of my mind. They "knock out" poppers along with other plugs and catch fish with their products. My contention, however, is that when one plug is as identical as possible to every other built like it, the fisherman knows what to expect and consequently uses each plug with skills that produce under similar circumstances almost identical movements.

For this reason and this reason alone I cast the weight slugs instead of pouring the lead directly into the weight holes.

The technique I use is a bit slow. Years ago a small block of aluminum was first drilled to the desired depth and diameter. Next the hole was finished with a tapered, bottoming reamer and a handle fitted to the finished block. I have three of these, one for each of the weights used. When a slug is cast in this mold, the slow taper permits an easy release. Later when the slug is set, the taper permits an easy introduction into the body of the plug. I work with a mold until it becomes too hot to release easily, shift to another and then another while the first one cools.

Whichever technique is used, cast a batch of slugs and set them aside for future use. It is easy to melt lead. However, if you have no furnace or fireplace and the women of your life refuses the use of the kitchen stove, you might like to invest in a convenient hand-held electric ladle which plugs into any home outlet. It is made by Palmer Manufacturing Co., 24 Ware St., Wakefield, Mass. and is called HOT POT. Be sure to have a heatproof base, preferably thick asbestos, to rest it on when heated and not in use.

The preceding instructions, if followed, will ready you for the final business of putting the "W-Y" all together, something we will complete in the next issue.



How To Ruin A Season

by Don Millus

"The foreign fleet moved in. They were all over the place, according to the skippers. Cod fishing still hasn't gone back to what it was." Mike Maffei, proprietor of one of Sheepshead Bay's most renowned establishments, emphasized the past tense as he talked of the sudden drop from great to average cod fishing that had taken place just after the foreign fleet paid a pre-Christmas visit to the waters south of the Cholera Banks.

The cod themselves had moved in just before Thanksgiving Day, and fishing had been far above average well into December. But along with the cod there were herring and mackerel and apparently the foreign trawlers sniffed them out with their electronic gear. Two weeks before Christmas, according to Captain Mike Scarpatti, Sr. of the *Ranger V*, the waters south and east of Cholera were filled with the mechanized fish-gobblers from across the sea.

"It was the best start for a cod season in seven or eight years," Captain Scarpatti said. But one day around the middle of the month our fleet went out there to fish and the place was crawling with trawlers, according to the owner of one of the biggest boats in Sheepshead Bay. "They were trawling mid-water for herring or mackerel, but when they do that they take everything else with them, including the cod."

Of course, cod don't feed solely on skimmer clams and anyone who's ever put a freshly-caught mackerel on a cod-hook and come up with a big cod knows the truth of this.

By the time we made our way north just before Christmas, ostensibly for a convention in New York City, but in reality to sample the winter fishing, both the foreign fleet and the great cod fishing had departed. With the fishing slowed, the mechanized fishing boats didn't even have the courtesy to wait around for a picture. We had to settle for some slow cod fishing as testimony to their pre-Christmas bad deeds. Hope they all got coals from Saint Nicholas!

Had the big boats from across the waters actually come in past the 12-mile limit? Opinion was divided, but when one of our Coast Guard boats moved out there the visitors moved further off. But what did they do at night besides play cards and drink vodka? Those big nets work in the dark, even if the fish aren't biting.

He was thrilled by his first fish, but a good cod would have gone further than this half-pound whiting.

Got him! That's our high-hook with one of his half-dozen.

Even if the boats didn't come inside the 12-mile limit, the voracious appetites for fish that these mechanized fish harvesters have had resulted in a huge haul for them and a sharp decline in local codfishing. Coincidence? Not likely.

What upset this amateur fisherman upon hearing of the sudden reversal of a great cod season was that really good cod fishing on the boats out of Sheepshead Bay and nearby New Jersey is such a rarity that we've grown accustomed to heading for Block Island via the Montauk, Waterford, or Point Judith boats. And then, just when the hard-working captains and long-suffering fishermen of the metropolitain area get a break with the cod, the foreigners put the kibosh on it. Some Christmas present!

By now it seems evident to many that both the tuna interests and the military are behind the continuing

resistance to extending the 12-mile limit. Despite the recent legislative success, at least in the Senate, of an interim 200-mile limit, the final word is not in yet. And when "freedom of the seas" and U.S. boats patrolling foreign coasts plus big commercial interests are thrown into the scale againat the interests of boat owners and sport fishermen, it's impossible to be optimistic.

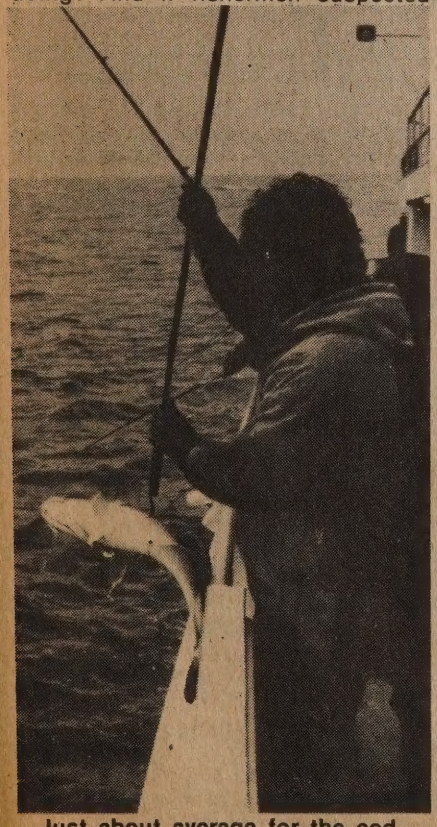
Another question we might ask is whether the Coast Guard has been directed by higher-ups to simply warn foreign boats violating current limits. A few "arrests" and fines if fifty-or a hundred thousand dollars might make them more cautious in the future. The same principle of enforcement has seen the 55 mile-an-hour limit creep up to 65 again, but in the case of the trawlers it means bad news for local fishermen.

Of course, there's still the night when who knows what the netters are doing. They can function in dark or fog just as easily, and with no one to look over their shoulders. One of the crew on the *Ranger V* told us of a summer night in Long Island Sound a few years ago when deep fog set in, but the sound of big engines was heard all night. The next day the bluefish, which had been all over the place, were gone. Was illegal net fishing involved? And, if so, what were the law-enforcement agencies doing? And if fishermen suspected something was going on out in the fog, why wasn't the Coast Guard called? Sometimes manning the phone can be more important than writing letters of complaint or just letting off steam.

A trio of captains on Emmons Avenue before dawn. Possible topic for conversation: the trawlers from abroad.

Well, we still took a crack at the late-December cod and, despite the recent visit by the foreign fleet, we had a good time and a few fish. Captain Mike Scarpatti, Jr. showed a few of his crew members how to fish and we got lucky and hooked three ourselves, despite a slow day on the fishing grounds. High hook was only a half-dozen and the pool fish went about eight pounds at best—good eating but nothing to brag about.

In other years it might have been an above-average trip. Compared to the fishing earlier this year, it just made Nick, Al, Mike, Vic, Pepis and the rest of young Captain Michael's crew mumble about wht they're doing to our fishing. And who could blame them?



Just about average for the cod left by the visitors.

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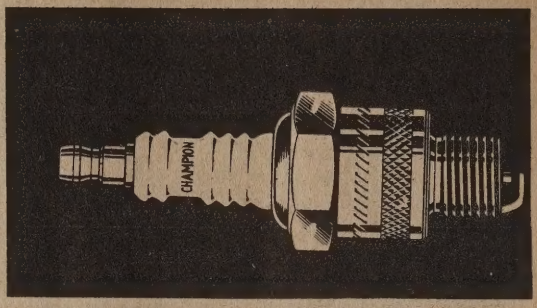
Fire Island National Seashore has a program called Volunteers in Parks. Under Public Law 91-457 the National Park Service is authorized to recruit, train and accept volunteers for and in aid of interpretive functions, or other visitor services or activities in and related to areas administered by the National Park Service. Generally they will serve as history and natural science interpreters, arts and crafts demonstrators, recreational skills demonstrators and also in conservation projects.

The program is open to everyone, including but not limited to students, senior citizens and housewives. As a VIP you will be provided many opportunities to increase your knowledge and skills and to obtain personal satisfaction from serving your environment and fellow man.

The National Park Service is also celebrating the Bi-centennial of the United States. This is a perfect time for you to become involved in this momentous event.

If you are interested in this experience, please reply to: Fire Island National Seashore, Box 229, Patchogue, New York 11772 Attn: VIP Program.

Tip of the Week



SPARKPLUG SINKER

In regards to the article "The Curse of the Sinker Bouncer" I learned a trick last summer while fishing for blackfish down by Ocean City, N.J. With the cost of lead becoming unreasonable, and the amount of sinkers lost while fishing in and around the rocks, the old-timers use worn-out sparkplugs. These can be obtained at almost any service station at a nominal cost. In fact you can save additional money by doing the tune-ups on your car yourself and kill two birds with one stone (sparkplug, that is).

Submitted by Allan Bjorkman, Brooklyn, N.Y.

The Fisherman Library

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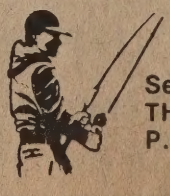

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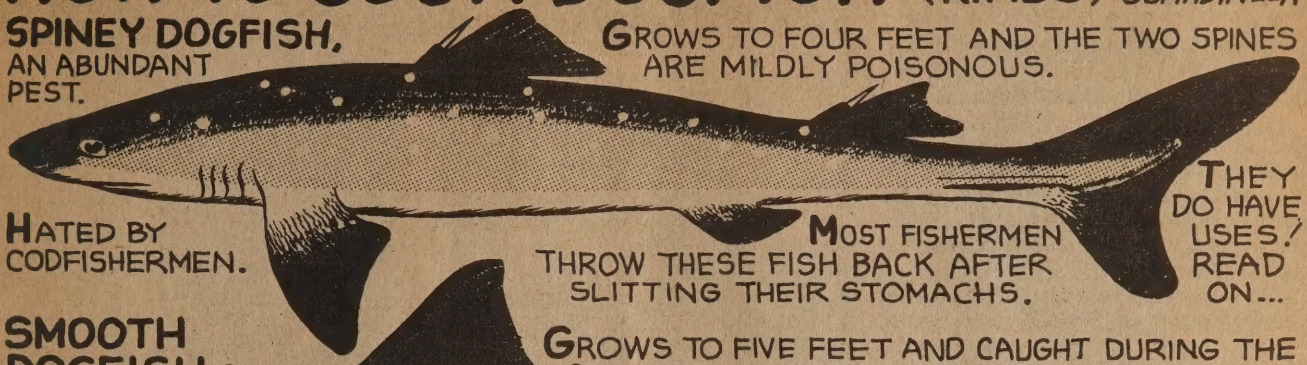
THE LONG ISLAND FISHERMAN
P.O. Box 143, Deer Park, New York 11729

HOW TO COOK DOGFISH (BOTH KINDS)

BY FRED GUARDINEER

SPINEY DOGFISH, AN ABUNDANT PEST.

GROWS TO FOUR FEET AND THE TWO SPINES ARE MILDLY POISONOUS.



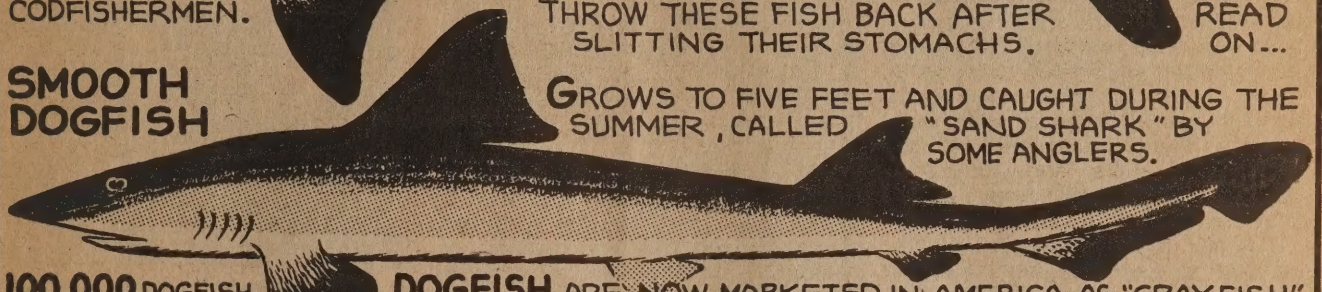
HATED BY CODFISHERMEN.

MOST FISHERMEN THROW THESE FISH BACK AFTER SLITTING THEIR STOMACHS.

THEY DO HAVE USES! READ ON...

SMOOTH DOGFISH

GROWS TO FIVE FEET AND CAUGHT DURING THE SUMMER, CALLED "SAND SHARK" BY SOME ANGLERS.



100,000 DOGFISH ARE USED EACH YEAR FOR DISSECTION IN BIOLOGY CLASSES.

DOGFISH ARE NOW MARKETED IN AMERICA AS "GRAY FISH" AND ARE EXTENSIVELY EATEN IN JAPAN. IN EUROPE THEY ARE SOLD AS "ROCK SALMON" AND ARE THE PRINCIPAL INGREDIENTS IN THE FISH-AND-CHIP SHOPS IN THE SOUTH OF ENGLAND. L.I. COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN GET 12¢ PER LB. FOR DOGFISH.

SPINEY DOGFISH MAY LIVE 30 YEARS AND SWIM THE NORTH ATLANTIC FROM SHALLOW WATER TO 3600 FT. THEY MAKE 1200 MILE MIGRATIONS IN LARGE SCHOOLS. FEMALES COME INSHORE TO GIVE BIRTH TO 3-11 LIVE YOUNG, EACH 11 INCHES LONG. MATING TAKES PLACE IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH, THE YOUNG BEING BORN 22 MONTHS LATER.

UREA IN THE BLOODSTREAM OF DOGFISH, AND ALL SHARKS, GIVES OFF A REPULSIVE AMMONIA TASTE IF NOT REMOVED.

SAM LUMIA GAVE US THIS RECIPE AND IS SHOWN HERE AT WORK IN HIS *CAPITAL BARBER SHOP*, FIRE ISLAND AVE., BABYLON, L. I.

1. AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, BLEED THE SHARK - ONE WAY IS TO CUT OFF THE TAIL.
2. SKIN THE DOGFISH.
3. GUT BEYOND THE VENT, CLEAN OUT ALL THE BLOOD.
4. CUT IN PIECES 2½ - 3 INCHES.
5. SOAK IN SALT WATER BRINE 2-3 HOURS.
6. FRY ONIONS DEPENDING ON AMOUNT OF FISH - 1½ LB. ONIONS TO 3 DOGFISH. FRY ONIONS IN BACON FAT OR OLIVE OIL.
7. PUT ONIONS ASIDE, FRY FISH.
8. AFTER FISH ARE FRIED, LEAVE IN PAN AS TIGHT AS POSSIBLE, PUT ONIONS ON TOP OF FISH IN LAYERS - FISH, ONIONS, FISH, ONIONS ETC.
9. SPRINKLE *LIBERALLY* WITH WINE VINEGAR.
10. SIMMER 15 MINUTES IN VERY LOW FLAME. "*YOU'LL NEVER THROW DOGFISH AWAY AGAIN!*" SAYS SAM WHO PREPARES AS MANY AS 30 DOGFISH AT A TIME!

SOUTH SHORE Fishing Report

MONTAUK

Captain Paul Forsberg of the **Viking Star** said that cod fishing has been very good all week with 300-400 fish a day. It slowed down Saturday considerably with 150 fish, but picked up again on Sunday with 300 cod in the 8-12 lb. range. A few large blackfish averaging 7-8 lbs. were mixed in, and the pool fish has only been in the twenties. The Viking Star has been fishing south of Block Island in 95-130 feet of water.

Captain Lester Behan of the **Peconic Queen II** also reported excellent fishing during the week with a slow down for the weekend, probably due to the high winds gusting up to 60 mph on Thursday night which may have stirred up the bottom somewhat. Wednesday the fishing was excellent in the Frisby area, which is southwest of the lighthouse in 60 feet of water. The pool fish on Saturday was a 25 lb. cod fish taken by Bernard O'Reilly of Central Islip, who had a total of 3 cod for the day. Fishing was generally poor, but everyone had a few cod. No blackfish in this area.

CAPTREE

Captain Speedy Hubert of the **Speedy V** said that good weather has brought some great fishing with it. On Sunday there was a super bonanza of large codfish. More than 200 fish were taken and over 40 of them were in the 35-40 lb. class. Frank Scalia of Brooklyn took the pool with a 64 pounder, nosing out Charles Schaefer who had a 50 pounder. This action took place 1¾ hours southeast of Fire Island Inlet in 130 feet of water on the open bottom. Saturday was also very good with a 45 lb. pool fish, and high hook was 17. The **Yankee** had 75 fish for 12 guys with a few large ones mixed in.

The Captain Scotty reported very good cod fishing east/southeast of the NB buoy in 130 feet of water. Two hundred fish were taken on Sunday. High hook was 17, and 30 fish ranged from 22-45 lbs. Saturday was tough going with not as many fish and the largest only 24 lbs. The Captain Scotty plans on sticking with the cod fishing through March or until the fishing dies out.

The **Captain Joseph IV** has had a very productive week. Sunday saw one angler with a 20 and 25 lb. double header and another fare with 2 fish in the 30 lb. class.

The **Capt. Litwin** has been doing well on cod all week, fishing southeast of the inlet. Mrs. Litwin, Capt. Ben's wife, had 9 fish herself on Saturday.

John Dethlesen of Hicksville, left, with a 46 lb. pool-winning cod and Jens Jacobsen Sr. with a 40 lb. cod and son Junior with a 14 lb. pollack, all taken on the Peconic Queen II on January 12th.

MERRICK

George at **Nick's Fishing Station** is keeping a couple of boats in the water, as some catches of yellow tail flounder are being made in the bays and creeks in the Merrick and Freeport areas. George advises that you pick up bait at Causeway Bait & Tackle in Wantagh first, however.

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Louise Reina, the better-half of L.I.F. Publisher Rich Reina, took this huge 36 pound barracuda last week in Walkers Cay. The cuda was only 5 lbs. short of the IGFA World's Record for 10 pound test line. It took a Tri-Fin lure and took 58 minutes to land. Good going, Louise!

N.Y. BIGHT Fishing Report

FREEPORT

Captain Richie Kessinger of the **Starstream II** said that fishing has been good when the weather is good. Up to 250 fish were taken during the week with at least one fish over 30 lbs. everyday. On Saturday A. Rosenberg took the pool with a 32 lb. cod. On Friday high hook was 19 cod. Fishing is concentrated east/southeast of Jones Inlet about an hour and twenty minutes run to 120-130 feet of water.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

Captain Fred Ardolino of the **Amberjack IV** said that Saturday and Sunday were both very good days for whiting at the BA buoy in 140 feet of water. The whiting are mixed sizes and a few codfish are mixed in. The Amberjack IV is contemplating a special cod trip this Saturday. If you are interested and want further details give Fred a call at 212-646-8083.

HUNTINGTON

Due to icing conditions in Huntington Harbor, the **Ever-Ready Fleet** is discontinuing its mid-winter schedule. Captain Don will resume sailing in mid-March. Watch for his ad.

NEW JERSEY Fishing Report

SANDY HOOK

Small founder being taken in Shrewsbury and Never Sink River.

LONG BRANCH

Flounder off the dock and bulkheads. A few decent catches of whiting being registed at Long Branch Pier.

CONNECTICUT SCENE

GREENICH

Sportsmen's Den said most flounder action on the Flats of Mianus River. Try also at Todd's Point.

NORWALK

Frost fish reported in good numbers. Flounders are plentiful enough to keep you busy. Several small hold over stripers are reported.

Nancy of Skidmores Fishing Station caught these trout in the Cotte River in Florida. Nancy says she will be back in East Moriches in plenty of time to open Skidmore's Fishing Station, March 17th.

MONTAUK

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LIGHT TACKLE SURF FISHING

(Continued from page 6.)

ment. The light tackle fishermen develops a communion with his quarry and he learns to read the signs that tell him when a good fish is tired and when it's still green.

The equipment doesn't allow for many mistakes and, therefore, if an angler successfully beats his quarry he takes pride not only in the size of the catch but also in knowing that he has passed the test that he created for himself. Light tackle fishing is an internal challenge.

Each type of challenge has its problems and its rewards. Competition in conventional terms with others is different than challenging only oneself!

If you'd like to try a light tackle combination that you might find very satisfying, I'll suggest one and each of you can take it from there, making additions and subtractions or modifications as you see fit.

Begin with a lamiglass blank (number 1802). The following list will complete the rod: **Tip-top**—5 1/2 SRMT. **Guides SRA**—30, 20, 17, 12, 10. **Neoprene grips**: One— 1/2 X 5 inch; Two—3/8 X 5 inch. **Reel seat:** 3/4 inch.

There are a number of good reels that you can match to this rod, but I think that you'll like the Penn 720 or 722 filled with 6-pound test mono.

Well, there it is. I suggest if you make this outfit, play around with the positions of the grips and reel seat until it is comfortable in your hands. When it's done you can fish almost anywhere with it, except the big water unless weather and water conditions permit, so have fun!

NEWS RELEASES

(Continued from page 4.)

agency charged with the protection of our natural national resources should give preference to approximately 100 commercial fishermen in a prime public fishing area which was designated as a recreation resource.

The new regulations published on December 18, 1974, in the Federal Register allow only 15 days to respond, instead on the usual 30 days comment period, because, "to delay immediate implementation to this rule could lead to serious confrontaiton between commercial and sport-fishing groups and unnecessarily endanger the public safety."

It seems that the Department of Interior is so concerned over the possible confrontation between sports and commercial fishermen,

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SOLUNAR TABLES
When To Fish Or Hunt

The schedule of solunar periods for the following week as printed below has been taken from the original Knight Solunar Tables. Plan your day so that you will be fishing good territory, hunting good cover during these times if you wish to find the best sport that each has to offer. The tables are not a guarantee that you will catch fish or see game during the period, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for an hour and a half or two hours thereafter, and are in black face type. The minor periods are somewhat shorter in duration.

	A.M.		P.M.	
	Minor	Major	Minor	Major
Thurs.	12:25	7:15	1:10	7:40
Fri.	1:25	8:00	1:55	8:15
Sat.	2:10	8:45	2:30	9:10
Sun.	2:55	9:30	3:25	9:55
Mon.	3:40	10:10	4:10	10:30
Tues.	4:20	10:50	4:45	11:10
Wed.	5:00	11:35	5:25	11:55
Thurs.	5:45	—	6:10	12:20

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that it will give the commercial fishermen every advantage, and the public the burden of taking time out between Christmas and New Year's to present a response. If, indeed, the public happens to read the Federal Register, it might be noted that this is damn poor notice, since very few sportsmen wrap their fish in the Federal Register. A response is to go to the Superintendent of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore, Box 457, Manteo, North Carolina, 27954, on or before January 2, 1975. The Superintendent is one of the proponents of commercial fishing. We would strongly suggest that any comment directed to the Superintendent of the National Seashore, be supplemented by carbons to the Secretary of the Interior and Congressmen and Senators in the readers' areas.

The question is simple. Is a National Seashore "a public resource, primarily, or is the public money being spent as kind of a subsidy for local haul seiners, with a "fish at your own risk" warning to the tax-payers and sportsfishermen who would hope that a National Seashore is for the benefit of the Nation?"

Congressman Jones is quoted as saying that "it's absolutely wrong to restrict our local men for these out of state fishermen. For all I care, they can stay home." Apparently the Department of Interior accepts his somewhat parochial view of a National Seashore.

BILL INTRODUCED TO ESTABLISH DUNE PROTECTION LINE

Legislation that would allow for the preservation of our valuable sand dunes in the barrier island, peninsulas and adjacent mainland areas of New York State has been introduced by State Senator Bernard C. Smith of Northport.

Certain counties bordering on the Atlantic ocean, Long Island Sound or the Great Lakes may establish a dune protection line on any such island, peninsula or the mainland shore line within its jurisdiction for the purpose of preserving sand dunes which offer a defense against storm waters and erosion of the shoreline, according to Senator Smith. The Smith bill does not require conties to accept such a program but allows county legislatures or boards of supervisors to establish one if they so desire.

"Actions by certain persons, corporations and firms have modified or destroyed the effectiveness of such protective barriers in the process of developing the shoreline for various purposes," said Senator Smith. "The legislation would make it unlawful in any county where such a line is established for any person, firm or corportaion to damage, destroy, remove, excavate or relocate any dune or portion thereof withour first obtaining a permit."

Senator Smith, who is chairman of the Senate Standing Committee on Conservation, Recreation and the Environment, stated the "a significant portion of the state's human, natural and recreational resources are contained in these areas and are entirely or partially protected from the actions of the waters of the Atlantic ocean, Long Island Sound and the Great Lakes by a system of natural or artificially constructed vegetated sand dunes. These dunes provide a protective barrier for adjacent lands and inland waters and land against the action of sand, wind and water."

Certain activities shall not require a permit, noted Senator Smith, such as grazing of livestock; the production of oil and gas; recreational activity, including the operation of a recreational vehicle; and the operation of any vehicle used in emergencies or for the performance of a public service. The legislation also provides for a fine to be levied against violators.

FREE L.I.F. COPIES FOR ORGANIZATIONS

Any Power Squadrons, Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotillas, Fishing Clubs or other organizations giving boating or fishing courses may arrange to receive free copies of The Long Island Fisherman for their students by calling Scott at L.I.F. (516) 667-6633.

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22' Mako, Twin 85's
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TIDE TABLES

	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGEPORT AM	BRIDGEPORT PM
2/6 THURSDAY	4:03	4:33	5:50	6:27	8:16	8:51	7:30	8:03
2/7 FRIDAY	5:00	5:28	6:43	7:15	9:09	9:40	8:26	8:55
2/8 SATURDAY	5:50	6:13	7:27	7:55	9:59	10:26	9:16	9:43
2/9 SUNDAY	6:32	6:53	8:06	8:33	10:41	11:04	9:59	10:23
2/10 MONDAY	7:12	7:32	8:43	9:09	11:17	11:37	10:41	11:03
2/11 TUESDAY	7:47	8:07	9:20	9:44	11:45	—	11:18	11:39
2/12 WEDNESDAY	8:23	8:41	9:55	10:19	12:01	12:01	11:55	—
2/13 THURSDAY	8:58	9:15	10:31	10:56	12:13	12:15	12:15	12:31

on SANDY HOOK

SHINNECOCK INLET	−0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+1 25
East Quogue	+2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+1 18
Indian Reservation	+3 05
MORICHES INLET	−0 56
Smith's Point	+3 28
Harts Cove	+1 30
Potunck Point	+3 35
Mastic Beach	+3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	−0 38
(Inlet.Breakwater & Dem. Pt.)	−0 38
Coast Guard Station	−0 19
Fire Island Light	+0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville (Brown Creek)	+3 39
Heckscher State Park	+3 20
Bay Shore	+2 23
Babylon	+2 12
Amityville	+2 21
JONES INLET	−0 19
Loop Parkway Bridge	+0 25
Zachs Bay	+1 25
Seaford Harbor	+2 05
Freeport Creek	+0 34
EAST ROCKAWAY INLET	−0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	+0 00
Beach Channel (Bridge)	+0 38
JFK Airport	+0 26
STATEN ISLAND	+0 27
MANASQUAN	−0 12

on NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+0 27
Connecticut River	+1 10
Little Gull Island (Race)	+0 12
Greenport	+1 04
Southold	+1 43
New Suffolk	+2 26
South Jamesport	+2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+2 33
Noyack Bay	+2 05
Sag Harbor	+0 59
Gardiners Bay	+0 21
Promised Land (Napeague)	−0 14
Fort Pond Bay	−0 29
Montauk Inlet	−0 25
Montauk Point	−1 13

on WILLETS POINT

Little Neck Bay	−0 10
Execution Light	−0 06
Manhasset Bay	−0 01
Hempstead Harbor	−0 11
City Island	−0 03
Rye Beach	−0 28

on BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+0 08
Bayville Bridge	+0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+0 03
Northport Bay	+0 03
Norwalk Islands	+0 10
Smithtown Bay	−0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+0 03
New Haven Harbor	+0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	−0 08
Herod Point	−0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+0 19
Horton Point	−0 20
Truman Beach	−0 42

PHASES OF THE MOON

2/11	2/19	2/25	2/3
NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	Last Qtr.

HOW TO USE TIDE TABLES

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and/or minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet —0 50" is listed under "on Sandy Hook". — 0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. For low tide, add 6½ hours to this figure.

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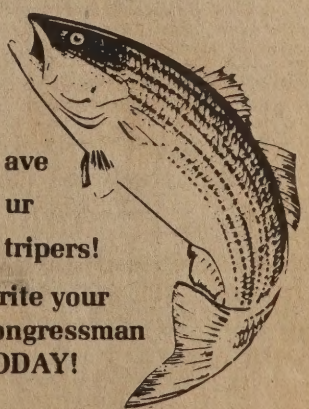

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This February *The Long Island Fisherman* is launching a new and unprecedented program for the benefit of our subscribers. The *Fisherman's Package* will contain hundreds of dollars in discounts on merchandise and services being made available *only* to L.I.F. subscribers. Each subscriber will also receive a "Subscriber Club Card" with his name on it entitling him to reduced rates on participating party boats, rowboat rentals, marine electronics and fishing tackle. ONLY SUBSCRIBERS WILL RECEIVE THE "FISHERMAN'S PACKAGE," so subscribe *today* or make sure you renew your present subscription on time.

Look at a few of the items you will receive in "The Fisherman's Package":

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1975 TIDE TABLES

This 6 X 9 inch 16-page booklet will fit easily in the bottom of your tackle box or glove compartment on a boat. It contains the tide tables for 1975 as well as vital info such as sunrise, sunset, phases of the moon, moonrise, moonset.

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Would you believe there are more than 100 launching ramps on Long Island. They're all listed in this pamphlet, including info like type of ramp, length, launching fees, resident requirements (if any), telephone number, addresses and their locations pinpointed on a 10 X 16 inch map of Long Island.

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Submit a photo of your catch for possible publication in The Long Island Fisherman using this special blank.

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